Literacy Rate

2789. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many State Governments are not playing the attention to raise literacy levels meaningfully;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there were serious issues of access curriculam and management of the educational institutions which deserved for greater attentions; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Sarva Shikshan Abhiyan (SSA) is a national programme for achieving universal elementary education by 2010. SSA provides, *inter-alia,* for opening of new schools, strengthening of school infrastructure, appointment of additional teachers, interventions for enrolment of out of school children, promotion of girls education, inclusive education for children with special needs, training of teachers, supply of free text books for girls, SC & ST students, interventions for promoting community ownership of schools, based on the Annual Work Plans proposed by the State/Union Territories each year.

Improvement of Engineering Colleges

2790. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether AICTE has any plans to encourage the existing engineering collages to improve their standards and also enhance their teaching staff;

(b) whether AICTE would assist the engineering collegesm which are located in rural areas of the country, to get better staff and teaching aids;

(c) whether AICTE would function in the same manner like the UGC and help the technical education;

(d) if so, the details of such plans and policies of AICTE; and

(e) the steps being taken at present in this regard and future plans of AICTE?